

REMARKS

Claims 1–53 are pending and were rejected. Claims 1, 10, 23, 37, and 50 are amended herein. Claims 51–53 are cancelled. Claims 1–50 remain pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Each of the pending claims was again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as in the previous Office Action. To briefly summarize, the prior response pointed out that the combination of references did not teach the required third-type derivative that appears in each of the pending independent claims. In the Office Action mailed January 24, 2007, the Examiner stated that: (1) the predefined information is a “Certificate A,” (2) this certificate contains a signature by the issuing certificate authority, and (3) this signature is the third-type derivative.

Applicants disagree with this position. First, the claim requires that there be predefined information and a third-type derivative of the information. The information cannot also be the third-type derivative of itself, which is what Examiner appears to be arguing. Second, the application contemplates that the derivation that creates the third-type derivative be performed by the device that the predefined information concerns. *See, e.g.*, Specification at ¶ [0140] (“Port A must have used an deriving or re-creating mechanism that is identical or complementary to the mechanism that port B used.”).

To clarify this limitation, each independent claim has been amended to explicitly recite that the third-type derivative is generated by the device that the information concerns. Thus, a certificate signed by a certificate authority cannot meet this limitation because the signature is generated by the certificate authority. Each of the pending claims is therefore allowable over the combination of references cited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If, after considering this reply, the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be beneficial in advancing this case towards allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed.

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Date

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